

BPL ETHICS

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June 1, 2004

I am as lost in the chaotic data concerning BPL as anyone else. What occurred to me recently is amateur radio operators may not have considered the long-term consequences of BPL.

Many are aware of the power of corporate America to undermine our society in the name of profit, they learned the art from the best teacher in the world. Simply put any thing is game if there's a buck in it. On the surface most would generally agree healthy competition is a good thing. It's what's beneath the surface, just out of reach of the law and largely unnoticed by most people.

Corporate America has learned to manipulate with precision, everything it touches for profit while displaying well-documented regard for the country and the people's lives it impacts.

Promoters of BPL have gone to great lengths to convince everyone they can deal with specific interference complaints in a localized area. I have not looked into their technical claims but I have a tendency to believe the part that they have the ability to "tailor" the signal to notch the interference. I submit that this is where the most damaging problem with BPL lies "under the surface".

Like so many other things in our lives, you buy something and it's not what you expected or doesn't last a reasonable time (I could write a book here). Essentially the time, requirements and money involved makes dealing with the problem impractical. We've all become so tired of fighting for what's right in this country that for our own well being we have to quit fighting at some point to keep our sanity. Life has become a steady barrage of endless voice mail systems and letter writings for most of us. There's a lot of money in BPL and it's proponents will do the predictable thing, they will cater to the FCC and peoples complaints until they establish their presents.

After a period of time they may burry the complaint department in a deeply layered voice mail system with no human contact, fulfilling their requirement to address complaints, certainly we're all familiar with that! They may put up a website describing many fixes people can implement in their homes to confuse the issue and as a delay tactic. The longer they put you off the greater the likelihood you'll give up.

Presumably, amateur radio operators will begin finding it so much trouble to fight with corporate BPL and will just quit operating. Corporate America will eventually undermine amateur radio and run enough of us off so that one day they'll be able to purchase HF by the pound like sausage at the deli.

It's not a technical issue it's an ethical issue.Ω